

Date: 03/12/2012

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2542, SD1 (sscr 2028) RELATING TO EDUCATION. Education;
Attendance

Purpose of Bill: Amends section 302A-1143 to specify when a student may attend a
school outside of the student's district

Department's Position:

The Department of Education is in support of SB2542, SD1 (sscr 2028) which specifies that a student is required to attend a school in the district where they live, unless they attend a Hawaiian language medium program, a charter school, the department grants a geographic exception, or the department mandates out-of-district attendance.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB2542, SD1 (sscr 2028).



SB 2542 SD1
RELATING TO EDUCATION
House Committee on Education

March 12, 2012

2:00 p.m.

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** SB 2542 SD1, which amends section 302A-1143 to specify when a student may attend a school outside of the student's district.

OHA recommends amending §302A-1143 (1) to read as follows:

- (1) The person is enrolled or is enrolling in a Hawaiian language medium education program.

Young students of Hawaiian language medium education preschools desiring to continue their education in Hawaiian have confronted the ambiguity of this section for many years. Because of this ambiguity, these preschool children are improperly at the mercy of Chapter 13 B.O.E. administrative rules that allow for lotteries. OHA's proposed amendment would clarify the inclusion of entry and kindergarten registration for transferring preschool students from Pūnana Leo into Kula Kaiapuni.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to PASS SB 2542 SD1 with this amendment. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



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TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 2542, SENATE DRAFT 1

House Committee on Education

Hon. Roy Takumi, Chair

Hon. Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

Monday, March 12, 2012, 2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Honorable Chair Takumi and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 150 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of SB 2542, SD1, relating to education.

While basic educational opportunities abound in each of Hawaii's school complex areas, some schools provide specialized training unavailable in others. For example, Waianae High School's Searider Productions studio gives students hands-on training in video production, Moanalua High School's MeneMac media communications and technology learning center instructs students in 21st century media skills, and Castle High School's performing arts center has long been lauded as one of the best theater programs in the nation. Students wishing to participate in these, and other, learning programs should have the opportunity to do so, within the budgetary constraints of the Department of Education. Moreover, students with behavioral problems may find out-of-district attendance the only opportunity available, should disciplinary issues result in a prolonged interruption in a student's attendance. Finally, the current language of §302A-1143 is extremely vague and omits charter schools, particularly those that cater to Native Hawaiian heritage. For all of these reasons, we encourage you to pass the clarifying provisions of this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director
IMUAlliance